

Wolf Conservation and Management 2013 Annual Report



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Donny Martorello PhD | Carnivore Manager
Stephanie Simek | Wildlife Conflict Manager

Summary

- Capture and monitoring
- Population trends
- Federal delisting
- Conflict management
- Livestock depredations
- Outreach
- Budget

Wolf Plan Goals

- Restore self-sustaining wolf populations
- Manage wolf-livestock conflicts
- Maintain healthy prey base
- Develop public understanding and promote coexistence

Diamond Pack, 2014

Information is subject to changes and amendments over time

March 8, 2014 WDFW
Commission meeting presentation

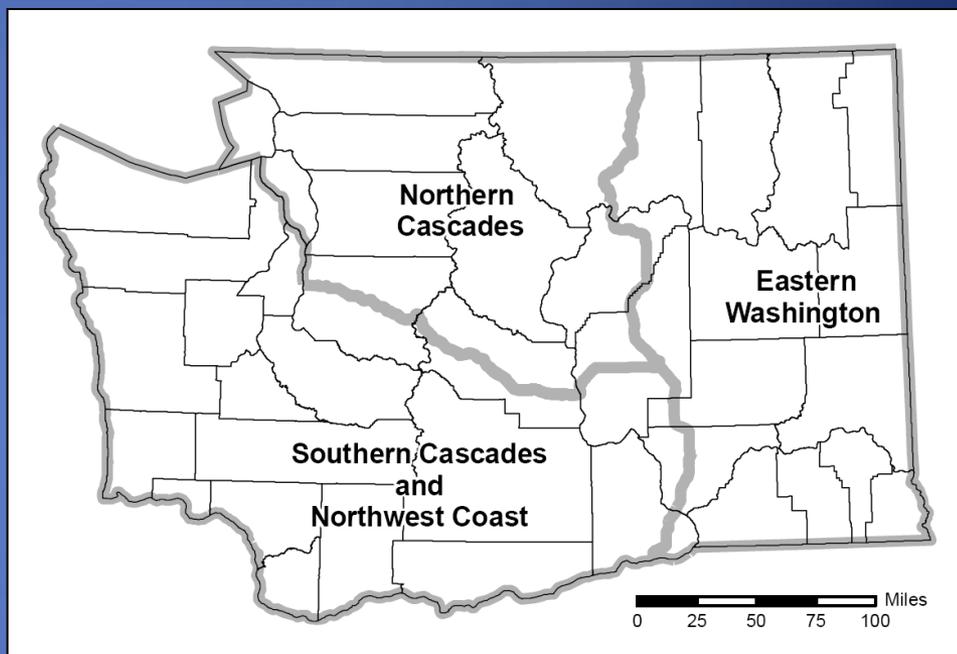
Definitions



- **Pack:** 2 or more wolves traveling together
- **Successful Breeding Pair:** male and female raising 2 or more pups until Dec 31

Recovery Objectives

- Delist at 15 successful breeding pair for 3 consecutive years
- Or 18 successful breeding pair for 1 year
- Distributed among 3 recovery regions



Capture and Monitoring





Setting wolf leg-hold trap, WDFW.

Information is subject to changes and amendments over time

March 8, 2014 WDFW
Commission meeting presentation



Yearling female, Diamond Pack 2010

Information is subject to changes and amendments over time

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Aerial wolf capture using a net gun in the Diamond pack, Feb 2013.



Helicopter darting operation to capture wolves in the Diamond pack, Feb 2013.



Eight members of the Diamond pack crossing a lake, Feb 2013.



Adult male (027M) captured in Diamond, Feb. 27, 2013.



Yearling female (031F) captured in Teanaway, May 9, 2013.



Yearling female (036F) captured in Ruby area, July 15, 2013.



Breeding female, Lookout Pack May 15, 2013.



Bushnell

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Known individuals of Wenatchee Pack as of March 2013.

Wolf Packs as of December 2013



Legend

- Confirmed pack*
- Border pack that dens outside Washington
- Wolf Recovery Region

* Packs represented by polygons are packs that had collared wolves and the polygon is the estimated pack range. Packs represented by circles are packs that did not have collared wolves and the circle is a generic representation of the pack location.

** Packs may be removed from map due to natural breakup of the pack, lethal control, or no longer detected.

Pack Status Summary

Recovery Region	Pack	Pack Status	Successful Breeding Pairs	Min Count	Captures	Collared 12/31/13
Eastern Washington	Carpenter Ridge	Confirmed	No	2	0	0
	Dirty Shirt	Confirmed	No	2	0	0
	Diamond	Confirmed	Yes	9	2	1
	Huckleberry	Confirmed	Yes	6	2	1
	Nc'icn	Confirmed	No	5	0	1
	Ruby Creek	Confirmed	No	2	1	1
	Salmo	Confirmed	Yes	4	0	1
	Smackout	Confirmed	No	2	3	1
	Strawberry	Confirmed	No	3	1	2
	Wedge	Confirmed	No	2	0	0
	Misc/Loners				1	
Northern Cascades	Lookout	Confirmed	Yes	5	0	0
	Wenatchee	Confirmed	No	2	0	0
	Teaway	Confirmed	Yes	6	3	2
	Misc/Loners			1		0
S Cascades & NW Coast	None	None	None	0	0	0
	Statewide	13	5	52	12	11

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Adult female (036F) Ruby Creek pack, Feb 2014.



Adult female (037F) Ruby pack, Feb 2014.



Lone male (033M), Feb 2014.

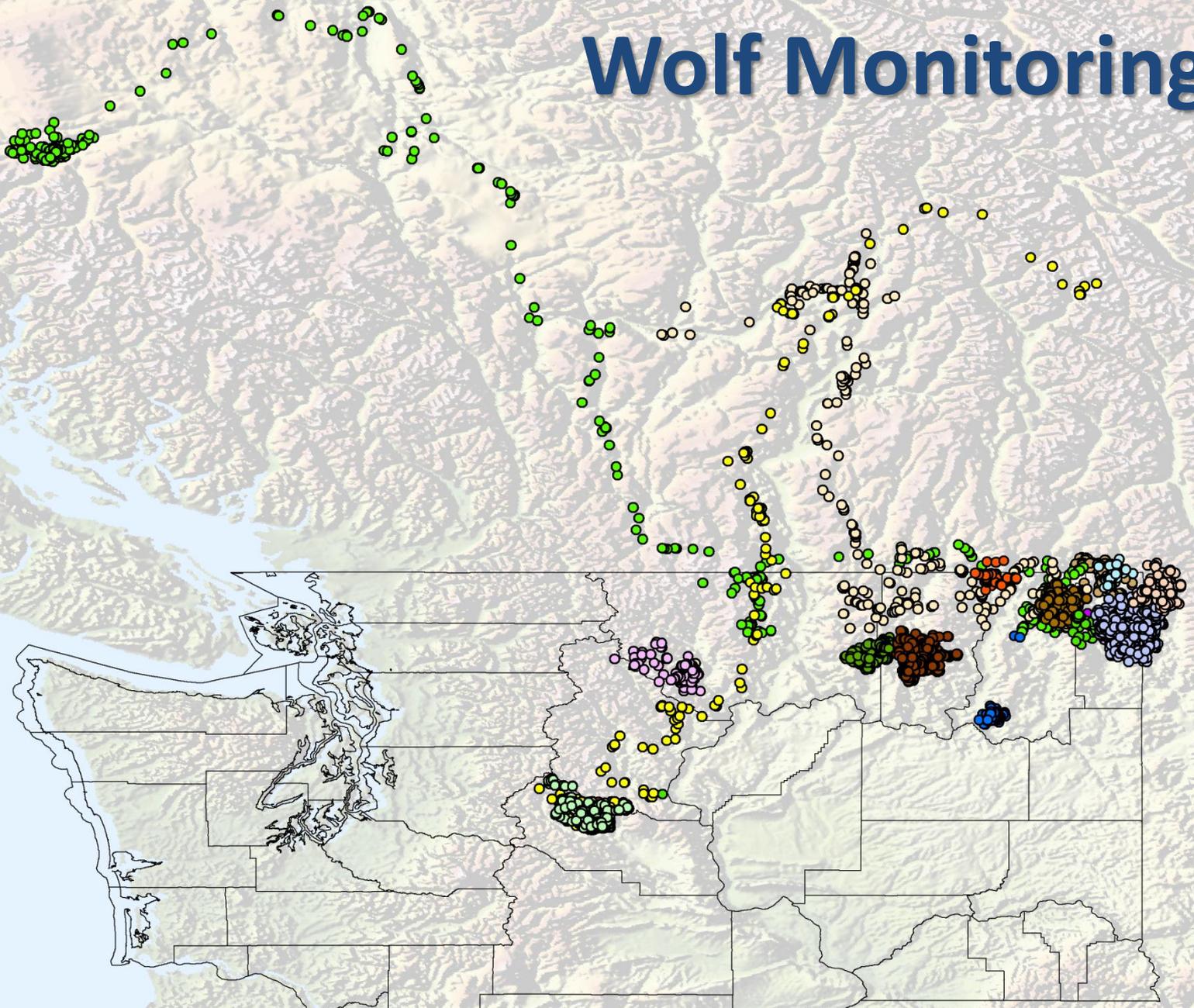
Teaway to Entiat and back



© Craig M. Monette

Adult Female (016F)

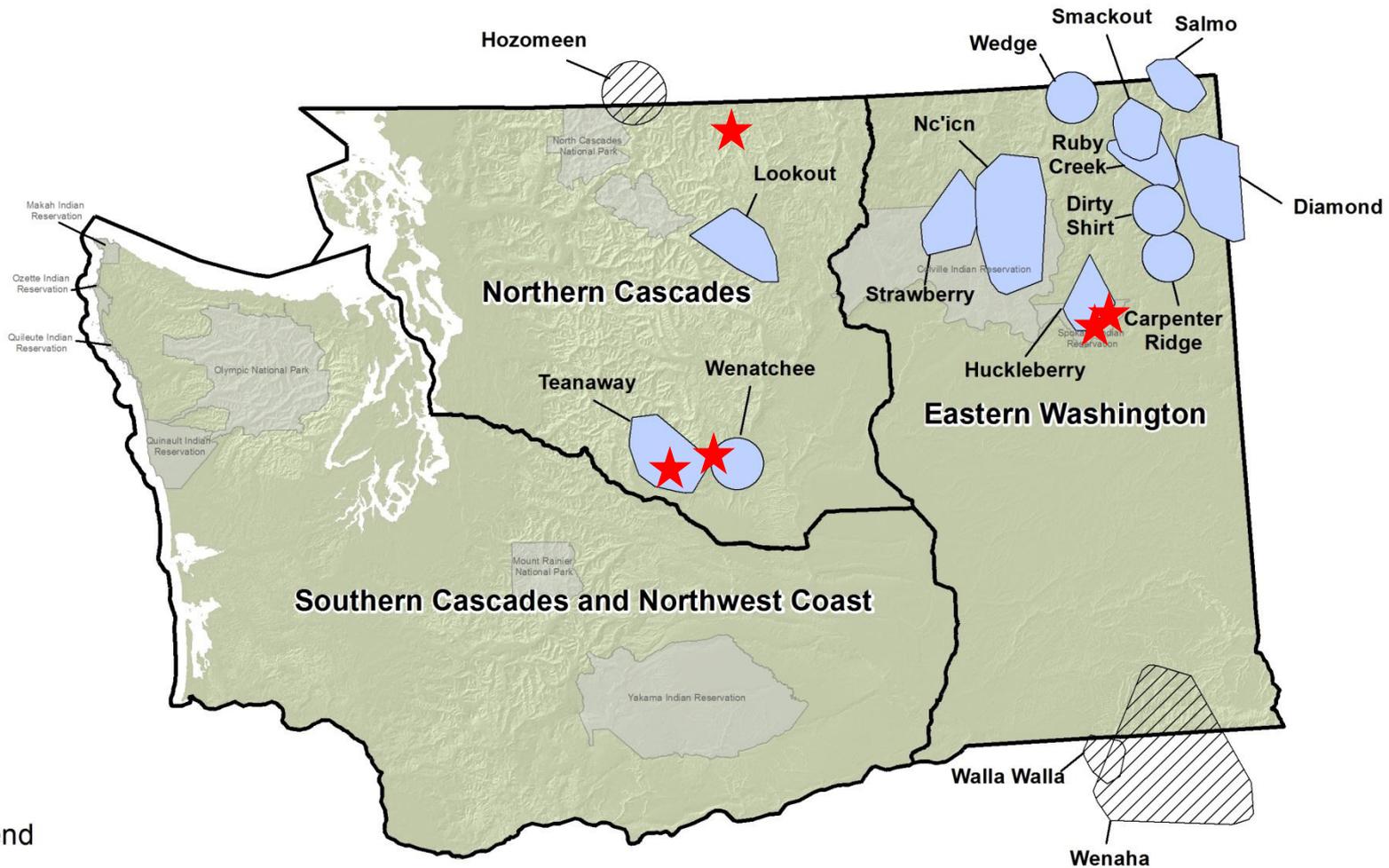
Wolf Monitoring



Information is subject to changes and amendments over time

March 8, 2014 WDFW Commission meeting presentation

Wolf mortalities Jan 1-Dec 31, 2013



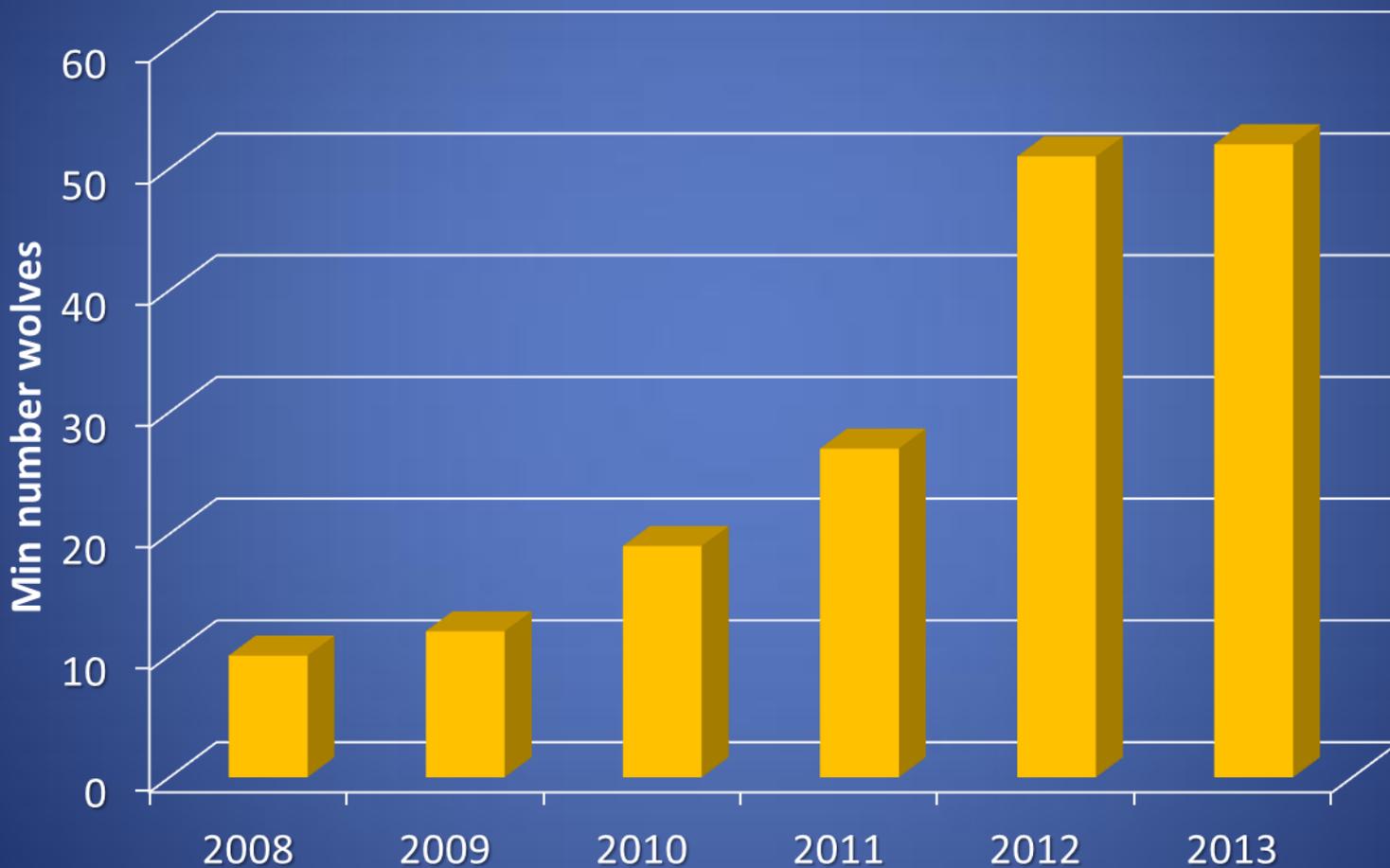
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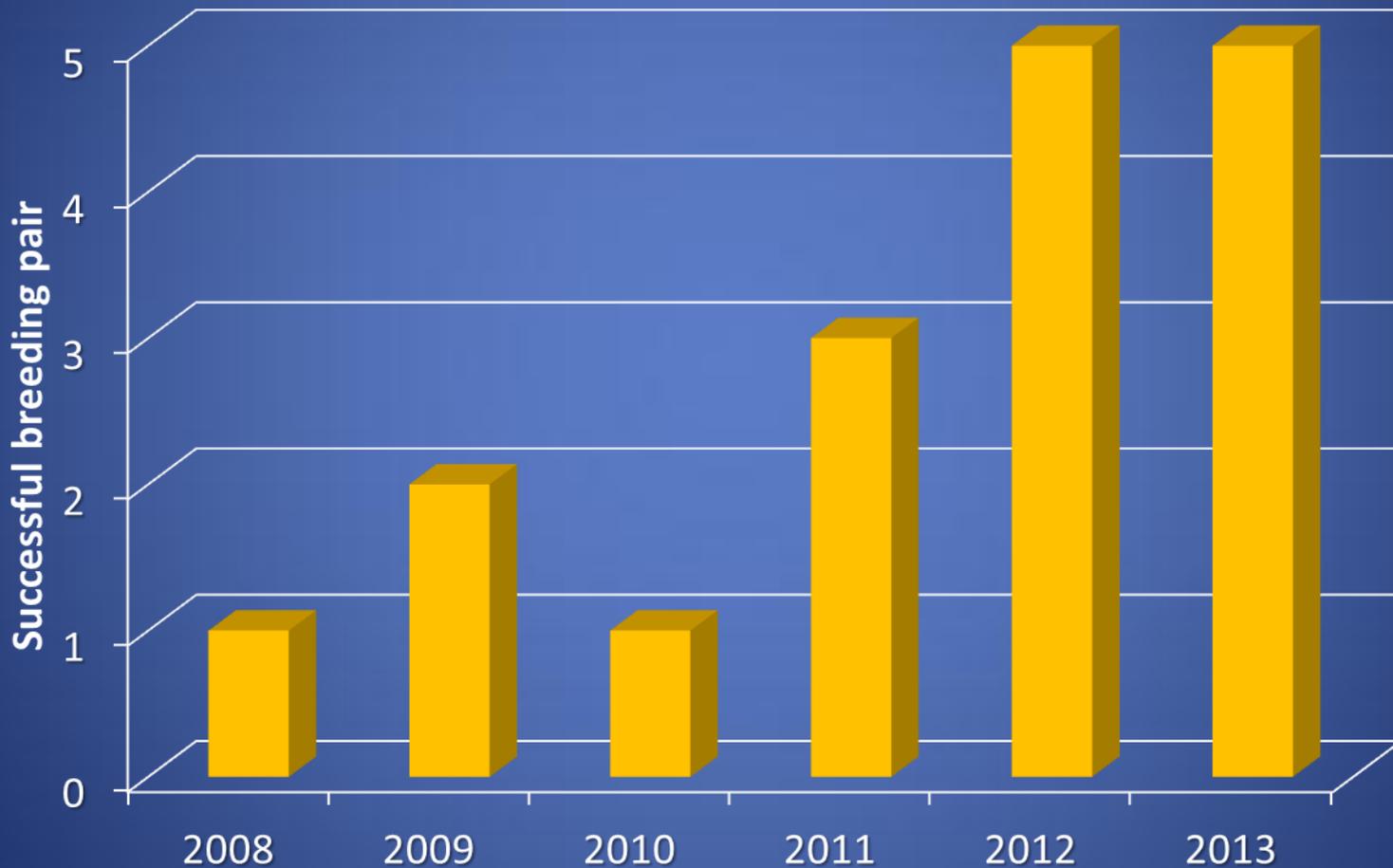
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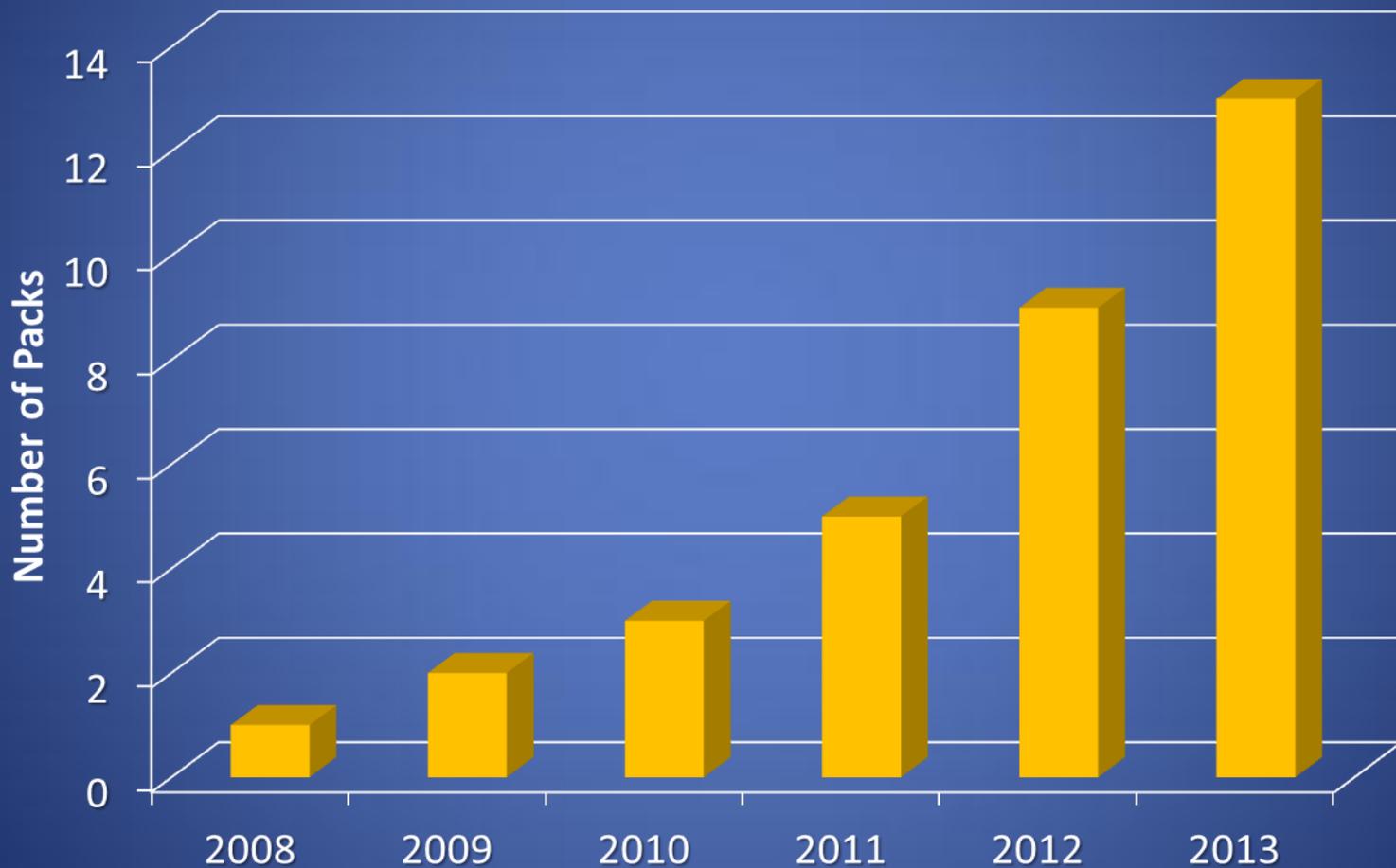
Trend in Minimum Number of Wolves



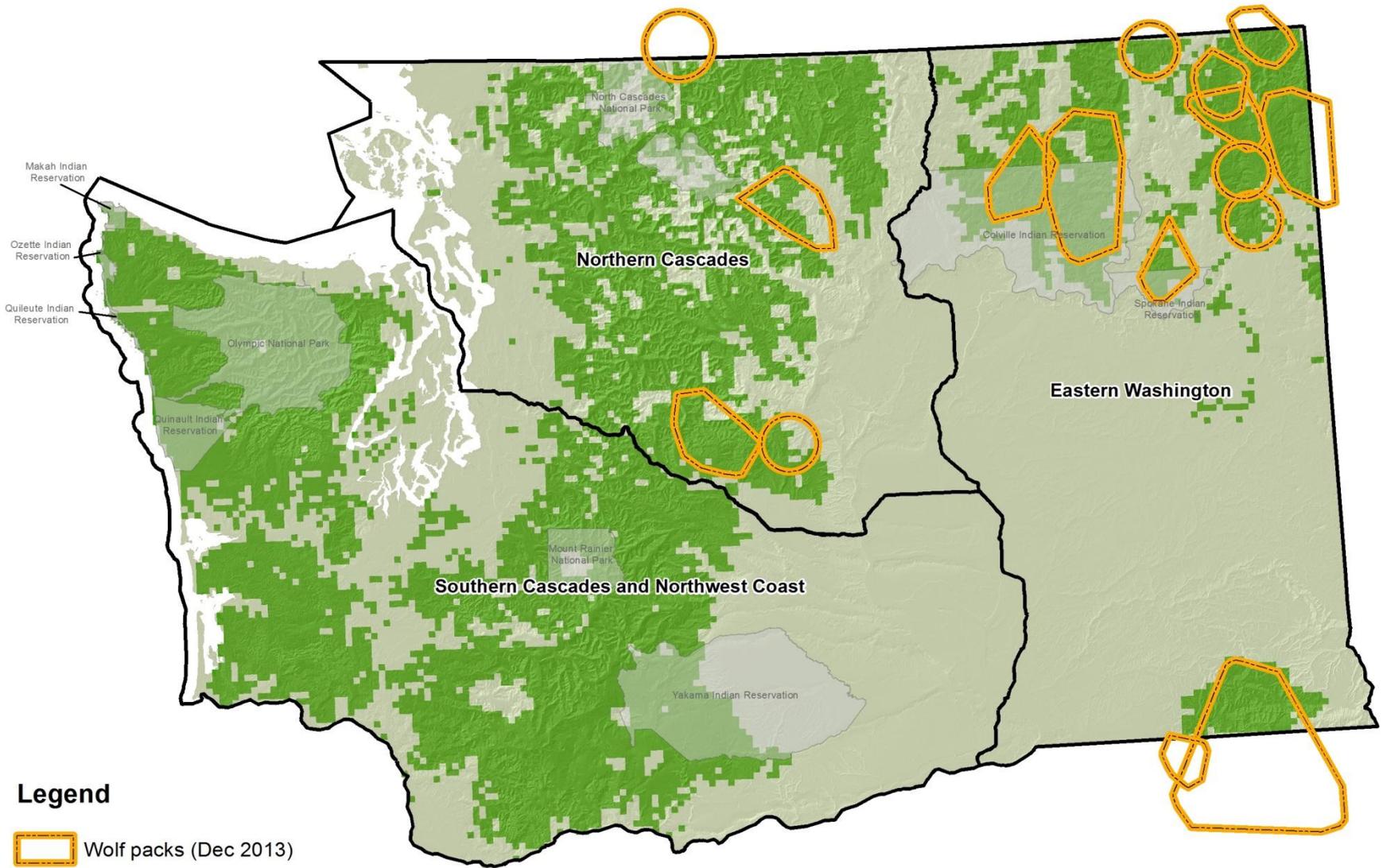
Trend in Number of Successful Breeding Pair



Trend in Number of Wolf Packs



Washington Wolf Packs Relative to Estimated Suitable Wolf Habitat



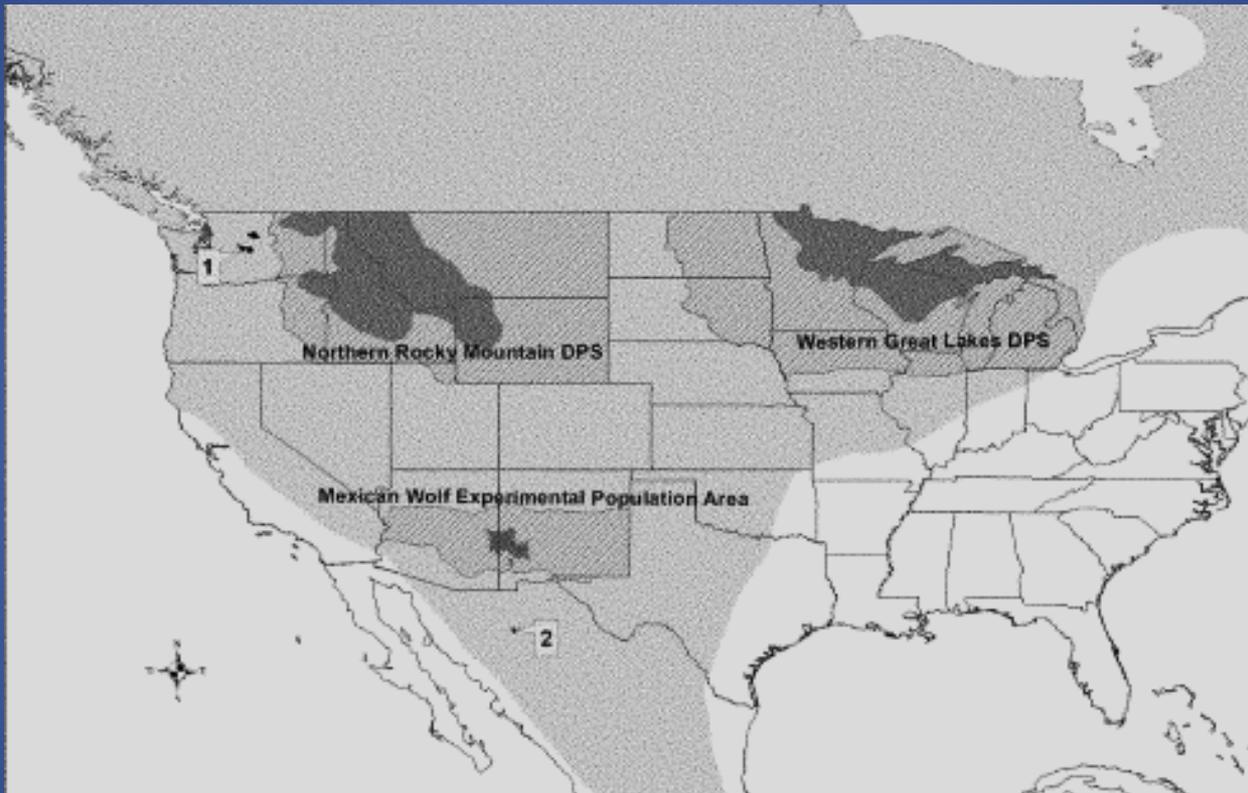
Legend

-  Wolf packs (Dec 2013)
-  Estimated suitable wolf habitat (greater than or equal to 50% probability of occupancy; see page 60 in Wolf Conservation and Management plan)

Federal Delisting Proposal

1. Remove Gray Wolf (Canis lupus) from ESA listing
2. Maintain Endangered status for Mexican wolf (Canis lupus baileyi)
3. Change taxonomic structure of Eastern subspecies (Canis lupus lycaon) to species Canis lycaon

Federal Delisting Proposal



Federal ESA Listing Status

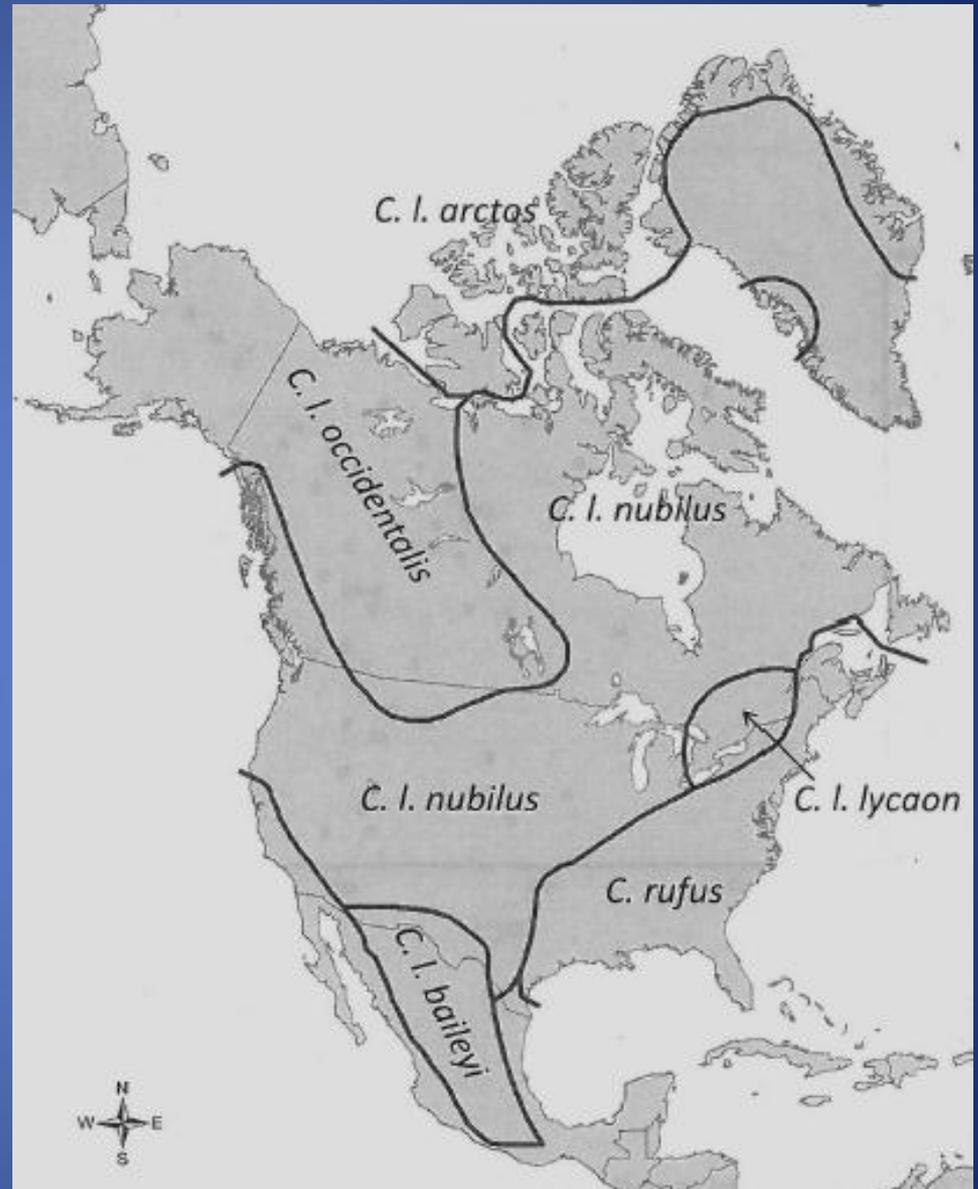


Federal Delisting Proposal

Washington's situation

- Recovery plan in place
- Regulatory mechanisms in place
- Ongoing monitoring of recovery
- Connectivity and dispersal
- Rapid wolf population growth
- Long-term wolf population stability
- Outreach and education on coexistence
- Adaptive conflict management

- In a recent study by Chambers et al. (2011), wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountain Distinct Population Segment are an extension of the subspecies C.I. occidentalis.
- At present, there is no population of C.I. nubilus in coastal Washington.
- Given the dispersal abilities of gray wolves observed in Washington and neighboring states, C.I. occidentalis is expected to rapidly colonize all suitable wolf habitat in Washington.



Conflict Management

Reports From the Public

- 1-877-933-9847
- 911
- Online
- Pamphlets
- Outreach printed materials

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Gray Wolf Management
Frequently Asked Questions
Washington Wolf Packs
Report a Wolf Sighting
Report Depredation Incidents
Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Wolf Information
Gray Wolf News
Photo and Video Gallery
Other Links

Gray Wolf Conservation and Management

How to report suspected livestock depredation incidents

What should I do if I suspect a wolf kill?

Upon discovering injured or dead livestock that you believe has been attacked by a wolf, immediately report the situation using WDFW's toll-free **Reporting Hotline at 1-877-933-9847**. WDFW or federal investigating authorities will respond as soon as possible.

The actions that you take after locating an injured or dead livestock can have a tremendous impact on it to secure it taking the following steps:

- Avoid
- Do not
- Keep
- Place
- Take

Dial 911 to report an emergency

Carnivore Depredation on Livestock
1-877-933-9847

Washington's 2013 Big Game Hunting Seasons & Regulations
Effective April 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014

Information on wolf-k conflicts

ton Guide to Addressing Wolf-Conflicts

for investigation of Livestock mortalities: A Manual for WDFW (pdf)

his manual contains graphic and potentially os of depredation incidents.

Special Permit Application Deadline: May 22, 2013

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Main Office
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501
360-902-2200
Get Directions

Mailing Address
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Phil Anderson
Director

Online Reporting

(All reports since active)

 **WDFW Wolf Observation Reporting Form**

** Indicates required fields*

Observer Contact Information

Mr. Ms. Mrs.

* First Name: _____ * Last Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

* Phone: _____ (XXX) XXX-XXXX

* E-mail Address: _____

Are you the Observer or the Reporter?
 Observer Reporter

Were Other Observers Present? No Yes
If yes, please provide names and contact information for each observer. Text is limited to 250 characters.

Observation Details
** Indicates required fields*

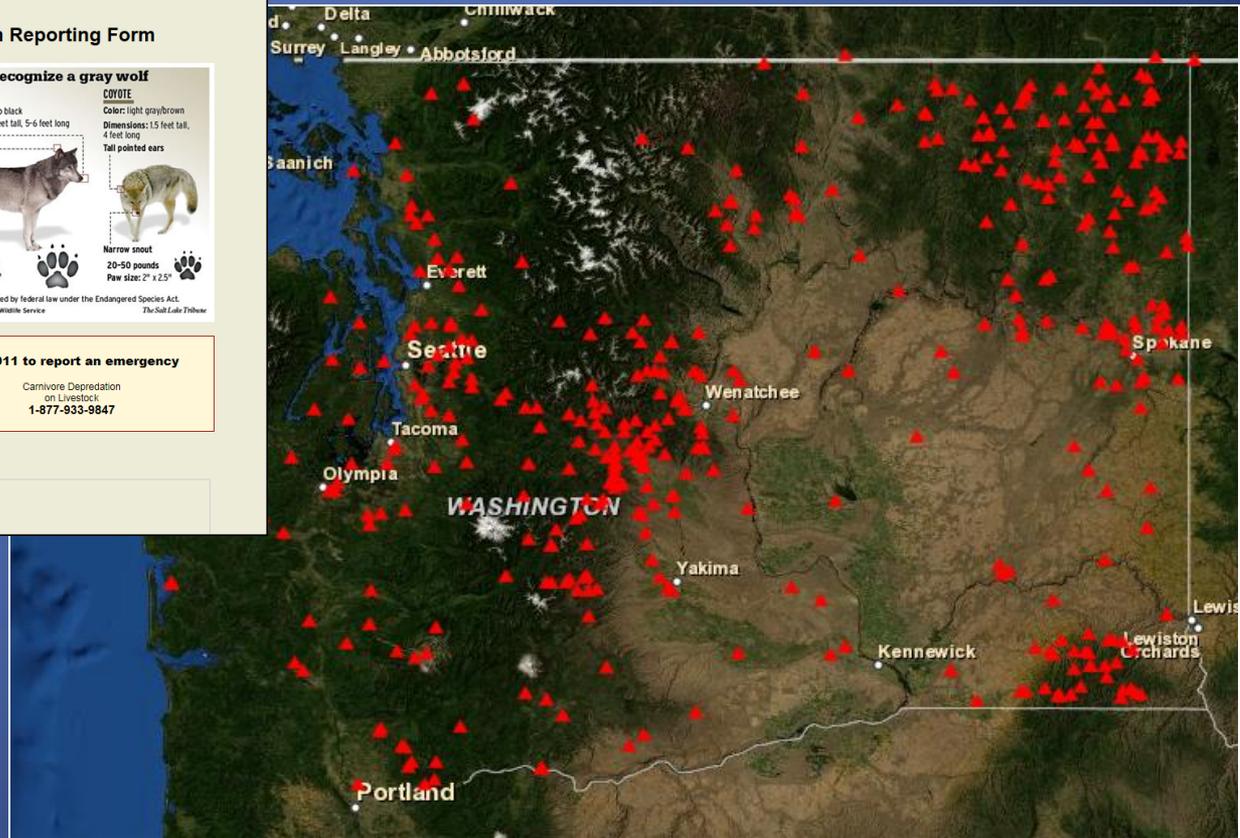
How to recognize a gray wolf

GRAY WOLF	COYOTE
Color: light gray to black	Color: light gray/brown
Dimensions: 2.5 feet tall, 5-6 feet long	Dimensions: 1.5 feet tall, 4 feet long
Broad snout	Tall pointed ears
Round ears	Narrow snout
80-120 pounds Paw size: 4" x 5"	20-50 pounds Paw size: 2" x 2.5"

Wolves are protected by federal law under the Endangered Species Act.
Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service *The Salt Lake Tribune*

Dial 911 to report an emergency

Carnivore Depredation on Livestock
1-877-933-9847





Bushnell

12-10-2013 13:07:28



Bushnell

01-26-2014 11:34:54



Bushnell

01-06-2010 04:24:10

Prevention

- Tools:
 - Improving fencing, fladry, range riders, collar data sharing, sanitation, noise boxes and other forms of hazing
- Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements
 - 29 statewide
 - Most deploy: sanitation, range riding, hazing
- Other
 - Pilot sanitation projects
 - Research projects
 - Contracted outreach project



Wolf-livestock Depredations

- 20 depredation investigations
 - 4 were caused by wolf (3 dogs, 1 calf)
 - 1 was unknown predator species
 - 5 were unknown/undetermined cause
- 10 non-wolf depredations
 - 5 were wild carnivore
 - 5 other causes:
 - Ravens/eagles,
 - structural,
 - fall/drown,
 - domestic canine



Wolf Advisory Group

- Mission: Allow a diverse group of stakeholders to advise WDFW in implementation of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
- Appointed by Director
- Directive:
 - Advise implementation of wolf plan policy
 - Review board for compensation

• Quad-County Commissioners
• Farm Bureau
• Washington State Cattlemen's Association
• Cattle Producers of Washington
• Conservation Northwest
• Humane Society of United States
• Wolf Haven International
• Sierra Club
• Hunter's Heritage

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Wolves and Livestock

Wolves and Big Game

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Other Links

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

Main Office
 Natural Resources Building
 1111 Washington St. SE
 Olympia, WA 98501
 360-902-2200
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Mailing Address
 600 Capitol Way N
 Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Phil Anderson
 Director

Gray Wolf Conservation and Management

Wolf Advisory Group

All wildlife species present management challenges, especially wolves and other large carnivores that sometimes prey on livestock, pets, and other animals. As the state's wolf population continues to grow, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is actively working with livestock producers, hunters and others to minimize conflicts that may occur, recognizing that public acceptance is essential for wolf recovery to succeed on a statewide basis.

In 2013, WDFW created the Wolf Advisory Group to provide a broad range of perspectives to help inform this ongoing management effort. This group is tasked with recommending strategies for reducing conflicts with wolves outlined in the state's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. Specific issues include:

- Encouraging livestock producers to take proactive, preventative measures to decrease the risk of loss.
- Providing compensation for economic loss due to wolf predation.
- Monitoring recovery of the wolf population and its effect on prey species.
- Providing information to the public on wolf recovery in Washington.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Wolf Advisory Group is to allow a diverse group of stakeholders to advise Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in implementation of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

The main objective of the Wolf Advisory Group is to foster the development of usable and useful mechanisms for the Department to implement the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

Meeting Calendar and Agendas

Date	Location	Agenda/Minutes/Documents
July 10, 2013	Ellensburg	Agenda Meeting Handouts
August 15, 2013	Spokane	Agenda Meeting Handouts Audio
September 18, 2013	Olympia	Agenda Meeting Handouts Audio
October 23, 2013	Ellensburg	Agenda Meeting Handouts Minutes
December 19, 2013	Ellensburg	Agenda Meeting Handouts Minutes
March 20, 2014	Olympia	
May 21, 2014	Spokane	
July 24, 2014	Ellensburg	
September 25, 2014	Olympia	

Wolf Advisory Group Members

- Wolf Advisory Group Membership Roster

Guidelines

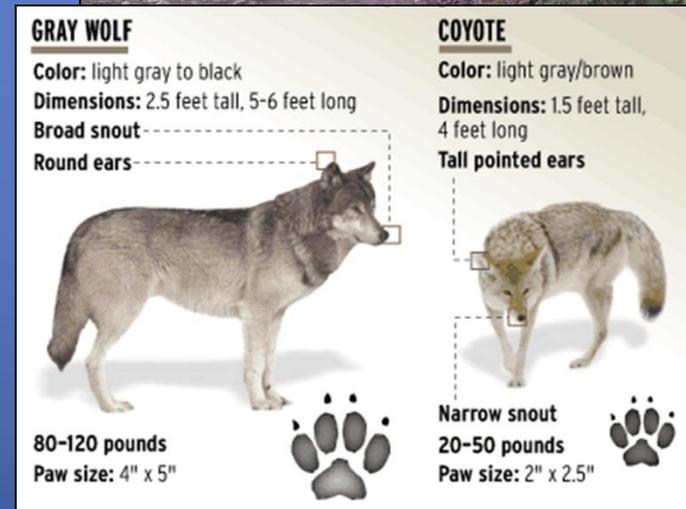
- Wolf Advisory Group Guidelines
- WDFW Operating Protocols and Guidelines for Advisory Groups

Contact Wolf Advisory Group

Dave Ware
 Game Division Manager
 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 (360) 902-2509
 david.ware@dtw.wa.gov

Outreach

- Meetings (n>50)
 - Public, Conservation Districts, Non-government interest groups, Wolf Advisory Group, Fish and Wildlife Commission
 - Trainings: depredation and range rider
- WDFW News releases and other printed materials
 - Brochures, hunting regulations pamphlet, magnet



Outreach

- Online resources
 - WDFW web page, weekly staff reports, webinar, sighting reports, wolf conservation and management plan
- Wolf Advisory Group members and other collaborators
- Contract with Western Wildlife Outreach

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Reporting Depredation Incidents
Compensation Rules for Depredation Incidents
Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements
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Gray Wolf Conservation and Management

Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements

WDFW enters into Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements with landowners to proactively prevent, minimize, or correct damage caused by wildlife to crops or livestock.

Agreements provide:

- State cost-sharing of proactive preventative methods, including specialized fencing, guard dogs and range riders, hazing equipment, and sanitation (carcass removal, etc.)
- Wolf location information where available through radio-collared wolf monitoring
- Permits to kill wolves caught in the act of attacking livestock. These permits can be provided to livestock producers only who lead authority for wolf management (currently the eastern one-third of Washington state), consistent with the Washington Conservation and Management Plan.

Dial 911 to report emergency Carnivore Depredation on Livestock 1-877-933-9333



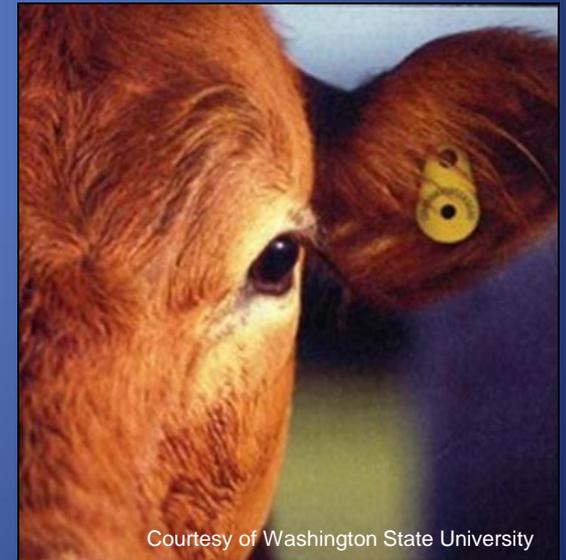
Outreach

- Create a wolf-livestock conflict avoidance outreach program.
 - Collaborate with WSU Extension and Washington State Conservation Districts to implement and promote the program.
 - Multi-media approach: video, “how to” handbook, “hands-on” demonstration
 - Sponsor workshops: 2014



Outreach

- Through scientific research
 - Washington State University Large Carnivore Conservation Lab
 - Wolf-livestock conflict avoidance research
 - Multi-part research
 - Work begins this spring
 - NE, North-central, Central WA
 - Multiple partners



Courtesy of Washington State University

Outreach

- Through testing new techniques
 - Conservation Northwest and Washington Conservation Districts
 - Creating / improving composting sites
 - Multiple locations and techniques
 - Preliminary work has begun
 - Proposed: operational by spring
 - NE, North-central, Central WA



Courtesy of Conservation Northwest

Future Efforts

- Continue working one-on-one.
- Expand efforts to engage and work with local governments.
- Actively participate in outreach and research projects.
- Provide trainings and expand collaboration.
- Continue testing techniques.
- Remain adaptive.



Wolf Expenditures 2013

Description	Wolf expenditures
Wolf-Livestock Conflict Research WSU	\$0
Outreach	\$82,550
Conflict Control - WS Contract & payments	\$92,917
Wolf Monitoring Carnivore Section staff - 2.16 FTEs	\$140,855
Wolf Conflict R1 - 1.96 FTEs	\$59,818
Wolf Conflict R2 - 1.09 FTEs	\$3,548
Wolf Conflict R3 – 1.13 FTE	\$15,947
Wolf Conflict R4	\$811
Wolf Conflict R5	\$4,857
Goods & services (eg. radio collars, flights, contracts)	\$130,610
Compensation	\$0
TOTAL	\$531,913

Fund source: PLP/Orca \$364,252/Federal \$167,661

Questions

Contact

Email: wildthing@dfw.wa.gov

Phone: (360) 902-2515



Diamond Pack archive photo, WDFW